

### **CLAIM AMENDMENTS:**

1. (Previously presented) Lactic acid menthyl ester, mechanically compressed with a force within the range of 10-100 kN to produce compacts, wherein the lactic acid menthyl ester content within the compact is at least 95 wt. %.

Claims 2-3 (Cancelled)

4. (Previously presented ) The mechanically compressed compacts as in Claim 1, wherein said lactic acid menthyl ester is L-lactic acid L-menthyl ester.

5. (Previously presented) The mechanically compressed compacts as in Claim 1, wherein said compact is formed by a process comprising mechanical compression of a force pressure within the range of 30-80 kN of flaked lactic acid menthyl ester.

6. (Previously presented) The mechanically compressed compacts as in Claim 1, wherein said compacts after compression exhibit a mechanically formed shape of spheres, cubes, cuboids, cushions, cylinders, tablets, pellets, or briquettes.

7. (Previously presented) A method for the preparation of lactic acid menthyl ester compacts according to claim 1, by compressing flaked lactic acid menthyl ester having a purity of at least 95% (m/m) in a compactor.

Claims 8-9 (Cancelled)

10. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 7, wherein said lactic acid menthyl ester is 1-lactic acid 1-menthyl ester is used.

11. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 7, wherein said compact is formed by a process comprising compression of ingredients and the compression is carried out using a pressing force in the range of 10 - 100 kN.

Claim 12 (Cancelled)

13. (Previously presented) The mechanically compressed compacts as in Claim 1, wherein the compacts do not contain an alkali metal and/or alkaline earth metal carbonate and/or bicarbonate.

14. (Previously presented) The mechanically compressed compacts as in Claim 1, wherein the compacts do not contain an inorganic salt stabilizer.

15. (Previously presented) The compressed compacts according to Claim 14, wherein said compacts can be stored for at least six months without change in acid number or odor.

16. (Previously presented) The compressed compacts according to Claim 15, wherein said compacts are dimensionally stable and do not exhibit agglomeration, caking, or intergrowth after prolonged storage.

17. (New) A mechanically compressed compact consisting essentially of a lactic acid menthyl ester component, wherein the lactic acid menthyl ester component comprises at least

95 wt% lactic acid menthyl ester, wherein said compact is in the absence of inorganic salts, and the compact is stable for an extended period of time.

18. (New) The compact of claim 17, wherein said compact comprises about 98 wt% of said lactic acid menthyl ester.

19. (New) The compact of claim 17, wherein said compact comprises about 99 wt% of said lactic acid menthyl ester.